



# News Release

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**CITY OF RIVERSIDE HOSTS STATEWIDE TOWN-GOWN CONFERENCE**  
CITIES AND UNIVERSITIES SEEK PARTNERSHIPS TO WEATHER ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

**RIVERSIDE, Calif.** – The City of Riverside and the University of California, Riverside have teamed up with a Statewide Steering Committee to put on the 4<sup>th</sup> annual statewide Town-Gown Conference, October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. The conference will showcase best practices in City (Town) - University (Gown) partnerships, with the theme of “Bridging the Town-Gown Divide: Partnering Towards Economic Recovery”.

Key sponsors include the League of California Cities, University of California, and the California State University system. A Statewide Steering Committee, with representatives from the City of Berkeley and the City of San Luis Obispo, has designed the program, which will feature keynote speeches, interactive panel discussions, and a special Q&A panel made up of Mayors and University Chancellors/Presidents. Confirmed keynote speakers include, Former California Assembly Speaker and Co-chair of California Forward, Robert Hertzberg, former California Assembly and Senate Leader Jim Brulte, and Kim Griffo, executive director of the International Town and Gown Association. The breakout panels will include sessions on economic development, student engagement and behavior, joint advocacy and best practices.

The concept of a California Town-Gown conference is the brainchild of the City of Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates and the City of Riverside Mayor Ron Loveridge. “We both agreed there needed to be a forum to share best practices on how to cultivate successful Town-Gown relationships and how to rebuild damaged ones,” said Mayor Loveridge. “The success of a campus in many ways correlates directly to the vibrancy and productivity of its relationship with the city in which it is located” said UC Riverside Chancellor Tim White. He continued: “We are delighted to be able to share some of our ‘best practices’ with other universities and cities across the State but also to roll up our sleeves and learn innovative new ways to work together”.

The first Town-Gown Conference was hosted at U.C. Davis in 2006 and since then has taken place at U.C.L.A. and California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, each in close partnership with their host cities. This year the conference will take place on the beautiful campus of the University of California, Riverside.

To learn more about the conference, including up-to-date information about the conference program and how to register, visit <http://www.towngownconference.com/>.